

# **DXtra**

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Thanks to reporters **Dave CLARK**, Newmarket, Ont. ... **Marlin FIELD**, Hillsdale MI ... **Ray FRONCZAK**, St. Louis MO ... **Nick TERRENCE**, Huntington NY

Ray Fronczak sends along this article, which appeared in his local paper May 23:

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chinese authorities began jamming Voice of America broadcasts on several frequencies Monday, apparently in a bid to deprive pro-democracy demonstrators of one of their main sources of information. It was the first instance of Chinese jamming of VOA transmissions since before diplomatic relations with the United States were restored in 1979.

Agency director Richard Carlson said jamming was detected Monday morning on three of five frequencies [15410, 17890 and 21585—RF] used for Mandarin-language broadcasts beamed to China. The demonstrators had been relying heavily on Voice of America broadcasts to keep informed during pro-democracy protests. The VOA said the jamming was similar to past Chinese action against Taiwanese broadcasts.

Marlin Field advises that the university at Wuhan has told his son—who teaches English as a second language there—and his daughter-in-law to leave the country because of the dangerous situation. We hope they're safely back in the USA by now.

**AUSTRALIA: ABC, Alice Springs** — On 4835 fading up above noise level from 0820 with instrumental music, announcements in English. Poor but gradually improving till they pulled the plug in mid-number at 0829. Katherine/5025 and Tennant Creek/4910 also in with sufficient audio to confirm parallel 4835 until all three switched to 120M. First time I've had audio from 60M Northern Territory Service outlets. (Clark 5/14)

**BRAZIL: (Tentative) R. Novas de Paz** — On 9515 after Caltanissetta s/off at 2132, this one in clear with religious exhortations in Portuguese, also mention of Paraná and "para todo o Brasil." At 2200 typical ZY echo announcement—boomy, muffled, unreadable—then cut off in mid-song at 2202. (BH 5/27)

**CHINA: V. of the Strait-1** — On new 6170 from 0953 with chime and/or flute IS; at 1000 "5+1" pips and announcement in Chinese, then hammered by VOA s/on. Very weak on this channel; marginally better on dual 7280, also new. (BH 5/13) ... **Qinghai PBS** — On 6260 from 2234 with man and woman in Chinese; weak and with intermittent low-side pulse QRM. Going fast and almost out by 2245. (Hill 5/12) ... **UnID** — On unlisted 15401 from 1143 with delicate Oriental orchestral and vocal selections; man and woman in non-tonal language; at 1200 "5+1" pips and continued. Fair with QRM from Finland. This on 5/24; not there any day since. (BH) ... **R. Beijing** — On 17855 at 1115 in English with discussion of current political situation. Frequency not listed for this time in WRTH or PWBR. (Terrence 6/1)

**COLOMBIA: *La Voz del Rio Arauca*** — On **4895** from 0237 with [Spanish] news, several references to RCN; off at 0259. Not there the next two evenings at this time. (*Field 5/22*)

**COSTA RICA: *R. Impacto*** — Heard on **5040 5/8** and other nights; on 5/9 back on 5030. (*Field*) [*Also heard on 5044 at times.—BH*]

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA: *R. Africa*** — On new **7188.9** (occasionally 7188.8) from around 2130 with fundamentalist gospel programs. S/off time varies—2145\* on 5/19 (Fri.), 2258\* on 5/20 (Sat.), 2227\* on 5/24 (Wed.). At closedown, gives times of operation as 6-11 PM (presumably 1800-2300 UTC), freq as 9852, address as POB 805, Malabo; off with national anthem. Builds to outstanding signal. (*BH*)

**GUAM: *KTWR*** — On **11650** from 2148 in Chinese dialect, gospel music; at 2157 IS once, then off. Frequency not scheduled for this time. (*BH 5/29*)

**INDIA: *All India R.*** — On unlisted **11850** from 1113 with IS, then s/on in Burmese or Thai (both scheduled \*1115); faded shortly thereafter. (*BH 5/26*) ... (*Tentative*) On **15125** since 5/13 from around 0930 till 1100\* with exotic subcontinental vocals, brief announcements in local language by woman; always weak and mixing with "*R. Moskau*" (Moscow in German). Doesn't match published schedules for Delhi on this freq; sounds like *Vividh Bharati* program of music from Indian films. (*BH*)

**INDONESIA: *RRI Serui*** — On **4607.3** from 0945 with music dual Ambon [*sic—he probably meant Sorong—BH*] on 4874.6; at 0950 quickly faded concurrently with my sunrise. (*Clark 5/21*) ... ***RRI Biak*** — On **5500.7** from 0950 with EZL vocals, brief comments by hostess; at 1000 another announcement but no RRI news. Poor/fair. (*Clark 5/21*)

**ITALY: *R. I, Caltanissetta (Sicily)*** — On **9515** from 2124 with telephone interview in Italian; at 2128 RAI R. 1 ID, gave several freqs, said "*Buona notte*" and left the air after a few minutes of test tones and clicks. Seldom heard here this time of day. (*BH 5/27*)

**KUWAIT: *R. Kuwait*** — On new **21675** from 0402 with Mideast vocals, Arabic comments by woman;

typically "bright" Kuwait audio. Also on parallels 17850 (poor) and 9840 (fair). (*BH 6/4*)

**LEBANON: *V. of Lebanon*** — On **6549.5**, heard several times since 5/12 from around 2300 running past 0200. Mideast music, chatter in Arabic by female DJ; slick production and generally good signal. Maybe 24-hour operation now? (*BH*)

(TENTATIVE) **MALAYSIA: *V. of Malaysia*** — On **15294.9** from 1058 with pop vocal; at 1100 pips, then man in native language. Weak. (*Terrence 5/25*)

**MEXICO: *XEQM*** — On **6105** at 0434 with ads mentioning pesos; callsign ID. Weak. (*Field 5/27*)

**MONGOLIA: *Ulan Bator R.*** — On **11990.8** (spur) from 1100 with IS, English ID, IS again, then ID and freqs. Did not carry news—was this the 1200 broadcast moved an hour earlier? 12015 fundamental fairly strong but largely blocked by powerful jammer; other spurs on 11966.6, 12039.2, 12063.2. (*Clark 5/12*) ... On **12015** at 1100 going into English after native language; gave frequencies, ID, transmission schedule. At 1102 news and another ID; at 1111 commentary on factory production of consumer goods. Fair. (*Terrence 5/24, 25*)

**NEW ZEALAND: *R. New Zealand*** — On **6100** at 0915 with radio drama; poor/fair mixing with YVTO time signals. Good on dual 9850. (*Clark 5/21*) ... On **9850** from 1048 with EZL music; at 1100 pips and intro to news. Fair/good. (*Terrence 6/1*)

**NIGERIA: *FRCN*** outlets on **6024.9** (Enugu), **6050** (Ibadan) and **6088.3** (Kaduna) heard well various days since 5/11 in English or vernaculars till s/off around 2300-2315. On 5/29 at 2220, Enugu and Ibadan were parallel Lagos/4990 (*Channel 1*) but Kaduna was absent. Never any sign of 5965 (Jos) or 6100 (Maiduguri). (*BH*)

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA: *R. Central*** — On **3290** from 0855 fade-in with C&W music; apparent ID and time check immediately before quick drum roll at 0900, then into world news in English. Weak/fair at first, then building till started to weaken again around 0915. (*Clark 5/14*) ... ***R. East New Britain*** — On **3385** from 0951 in English with local PSAs,

including item advising people with loan problems to contact Savings & Loan Society. From 0955 EZL music till complete ID, time check and local news at 1000. Good/very good. (Clark 5/16)

**QATAR:** *Qatar BC Service* — Has abandoned recently new 21565 in favor of new 21490, noted from 0900 with man and woman swapping mike in Arabic. At 0930 usual ID. (BH 5/20)

**SAUDI ARABIA:** *BKSA* — Has dropped long-time 21495 in favor of new 21670 for Indonesian at \*1000-1200\*; IDs as "R. Saudi Arabia." Usually faint at first, then builds to respectable level by 1030 or so. (BH 5/27+)

**SRI LANKA:** *Sri Lanka BC Corp.* — On 11800, seems to have added new transmission at 1845 following normal closedown after Tamil. After a few minutes of silence, resumes with English ID, freqs, mailing address, then subcontinental selections. Buried by Havana s/on at 1900—though on 5/13, when was on 11802 for some reason, could still be heard at late as 1940. Gone at 2002 recheck. (BH) ... On 11835 from 1045 with world news in English; ID "This is the External Service of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation." At 1100 pips, then '50s jazz music till 1130. (Terrence 5/9, 24)

**THAILAND:** *R. Thailand* — On 9655 from 1045 with woman in presumed Thai; at 1055 man in English announcing frequencies and upcoming program in Vietnamese. Tuned in again at 1130 for English; followed off and on till 1220, when deteriorating. Best level in months. (Clark 5/21)

**USSR:** *Kazakh R./Uzbek R., Alma Ata* — On 5915 from around 2240 with man and woman in Turkic language, also local music (cross between Mideast and subcontinental); at 2259 Alma Ata IS and continued in similar tongue. At 2329 different IS, then announcements and subcontinental music. It appears that Alma Ata relays Tashkent on the half-hour and carries its own programs on the hour, hence the two different IS. Weak and choppy with muffled speech audio. Also audible on parallels 5035 (under Brazil) and 7255 (way under R. Liberty). The latter is unlisted in WRTH and ILG; listed in PWBR but not for this time. (BH 5/28).

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** *UAE R., Dubai* — On new 11790 from 1802 with Mideast music and Arabic talk in co-channel mess with Spain and at least one other station. At 2030 went off, while parallels 15300 and 9595 (listed for Abu Dhabi) continued with news. (BH 5/13) ... *V. of the UAE, Abu Dhabi* — On new 25670 dual 25900 at 1230 with pips, ID in Arabic. (BH 5/29)

**CLANDESTINE:** *V. of Unity* — On 17740 at 0200 in Dari exhortations parallel 15685; terrible telephone-quality audio. Obviously a punch-up error, as had returned to normal 17540 by 0208 recheck. In the immortal words of Maxwell Smart, "Missed it by that much!" (BH 5/13)

**UNIDENTIFIED:** On 5080 from 0942 with Peruvian-style music; at 1000 ID. Faded out at 1025. WRTH lists R. Huayabamba here, but that wasn't in the ID I heard. Not heard since. (Field 5/11) □

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